

the movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20, 2012, and all of the everyday heroes who make sacrifices for their community, including those heroes we have seen during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Nine years ago today, 12 lives were taken, 70 were wounded, and hundreds more suffered emotional trauma.

Yet even in this tragedy, we saw incredible heroism, those who carried the wounded to safety, and the first responders, law enforcement, firefighters, and medical teams whose tireless efforts saved many lives.

I would like to recognize those who lost their lives that night: AJ Boik; Jesse Childress; Gordon Cowden, whose two teenage children were in the theater when he was killed; Jessica Ghawi; Micayla Medek; Veronica Moser-Sullivan, age six, whose mother was shot in the chest and miscarried a week after the attack; Rebecca Wingo; and Alex Sullivan, who was celebrating his 27th birthday and was 1 week away from his first wedding anniversary.

I would also like to recognize the four who died while saving and shielding others: Jonathan Blunk, John Larimer, Matt McQuinn, and Alex Teves.

During trying times, it is important to remember the heroes among us who, on a daily basis, answer the call to step up for their community and especially on July 20, a day we think of as National Heroes Day.

These everyday heroes such as healthcare workers, frontline workers, essential personnel, and those who helped develop and administer the COVID-19 vaccines, among others, have been particularly visible during this coronavirus pandemic, and I would like to recognize their tremendous acts of selflessness and bravery.

Join me in saying “thank you” to the hero in your life. Let’s exhibit the same spirit of courage and service today and throughout the year.

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47TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILITARY INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the 47th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey’s deadly and unprovoked military invasion of Cyprus.

This is a dark time in the history of the Greek Cypriot people and a stark reminder that we must never forget Turkey’s ethnic cleansing of 200,000 Greek Cypriot people less than 50 years ago.

The tragedy that is the illegal Turkish occupation of Cyprus that occurred on July 20, 1974, continues to this very day. I speak before you at a time when the Republic of Turkey is actively engaged in an aggressive, illegal, and uni-

lateral reopening of Varosha, a once-bustling Greek Cypriot resort town and international tourist destination in the Famagusta District of the island.

Following the Turkish approach to Varosha in August 1974, the town’s native Greek Cypriot population fled for their lives, only to later be denied the right to return by the occupying Turkish Armed Forces. Many of the Varosha refugees are still alive today, yearning to go back to their homes, while President Erdogan has moved to reopen Varosha to tourists.

The suffering in Cyprus is not just limited to Varosha. The Turkish Armed Forces have illegally occupied more than one-third of the island. They have destroyed and converted over 500 Greek Orthodox churches to mosques in the course of their invasion. They stole over 60,000 archaeological treasures, part of Greek civilization’s cultural heritage. Their violence led to the disappearance of over 20,000 Christian icons, and even worse, 1,130 people who remain missing since 1974—five of them, American citizens.

Madam Speaker, over the years, the United Nations has taken a stand against Turkey’s illegal occupation of Cyprus, going so far as to deploy thousands of U.N. Peacekeepers to prevent further Turkish incursions into the southern half of the island. In addition, the U.N. Security Council gathered in 1984 and 1992 to pass Resolution 550 and Resolution 789, respectively, to draw red lines when it comes to Turkish activity in sensitive areas like Varosha.

Specifically, these resolutions state that the Council “considers attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible, and calls for the transfer of that area to the administration of the United Nations,” and that, “the area at present under the control of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus be extended to include Varosha.”

As we grow one year closer to the 50th anniversary of Turkey’s illegal invasion of Cyprus, the United States must take a strong stand at the United Nations and other international fora to address the growing threat posed by Turkey, its increased aggression, and to ensure the eventual return of homes and land to its native Greek Cypriot inhabitants and reunification of this island nation.

If we, as a governing body, truly claim to stand for liberty and justice for all, we must speak in a unified voice on this issue. And it is a bipartisan issue. When he was chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, then-Senator Joe Biden promised the Greek Cypriot refugee community that they would return to their homeland, if he was ever elected President. During our first Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing with Secretary of State Blinken, he committed to me and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle that brought up this concern that the reunification of Cyprus would be a priority for this administration.

Yet, we saw our President meet with President Erdogan, and we don’t even believe the issue was brought up, so we will continue to speak out against this. I encourage my colleagues to speak out, call for action, and take a stand for our Greek Cypriot friends who need our support now more than ever.

If we are to see the end of this occupation in our lifetimes, the United States must lead the way.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KATE JENNINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker in 2016, my deputy chief of staff, Kate Jennings, first joined our office. After working with political greats like then-Senator Barack Obama and Senator DICK DURBIN, our team was lucky that Kate would be bringing her passion and her dedication to our work.

Over the next 5-plus years, there would not be one day when Kate didn’t put the people who we serve at the very heart of everything she did. When COVID-19 hit Illinois last year, our office learned of a family sheltering in a hotel, unable to feed themselves or feed their children. So in the middle of this spreading pandemic, what did Kate do? She put herself at risk, went to the grocery, packed a box full of food, and delivered it to the door at the hotel where this family was sheltering so the children would not go hungry.

And every year, Kate would take Valentines to our veterans to make sure that they knew that they were appreciated and that they were loved. She would travel thousands of miles across our vast Congressional district, and was unwavering in her hard work for all 14 counties in our district. She never tired and always worked to lift up the voices of the people that were fortunate enough to be able to serve.

Madam Speaker, Kate recently began her next chapter, and our entire team and our office and I wish her well on her new adventure. This week, as we continue to strive to always deliver for the people, I can think of no better celebration than to thank the person who spent nearly 2,000 days in our office putting the people we serve first.

Madam Speaker, I thank Kate for her dedicated service, her hard work, and her friendship for so many years. Everyone on our team knows that she will continue to deliver for the people of Illinois.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND JONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Mr. Raymond Jones of Saint Simons Island, Georgia, who passed away on June 21 at the age of 72.